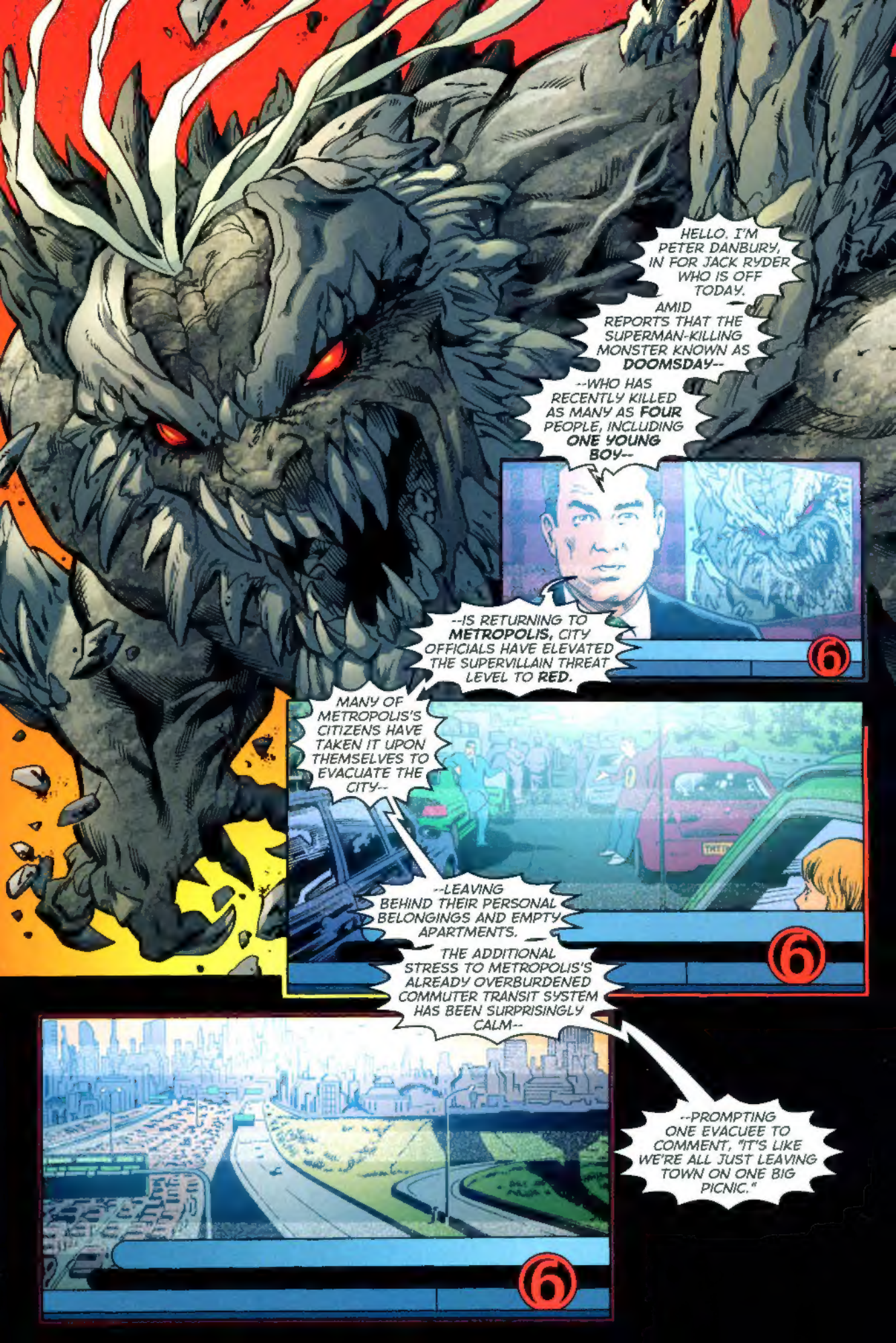
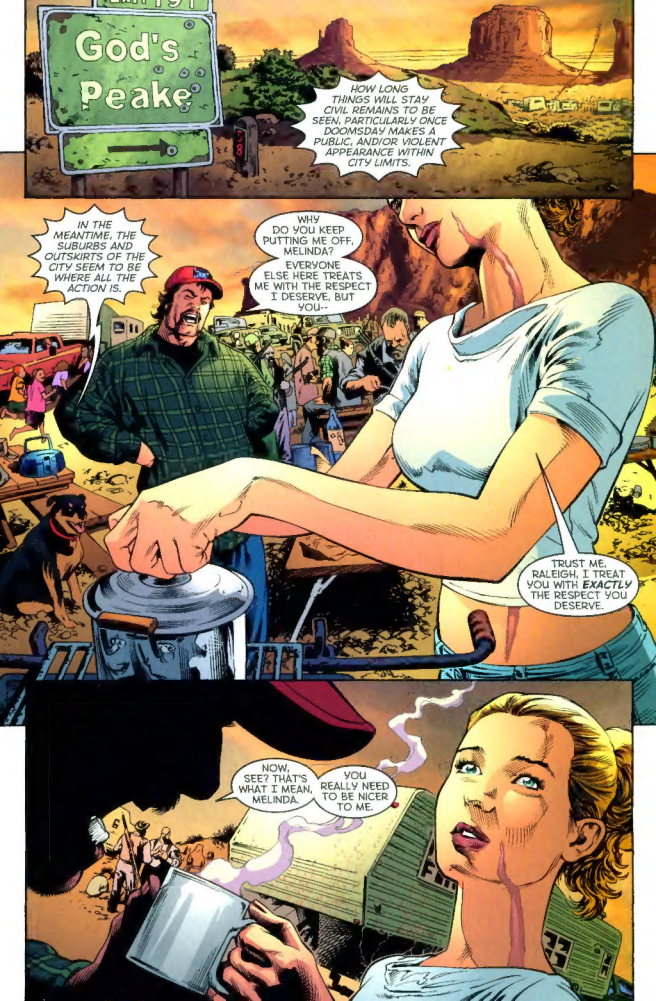
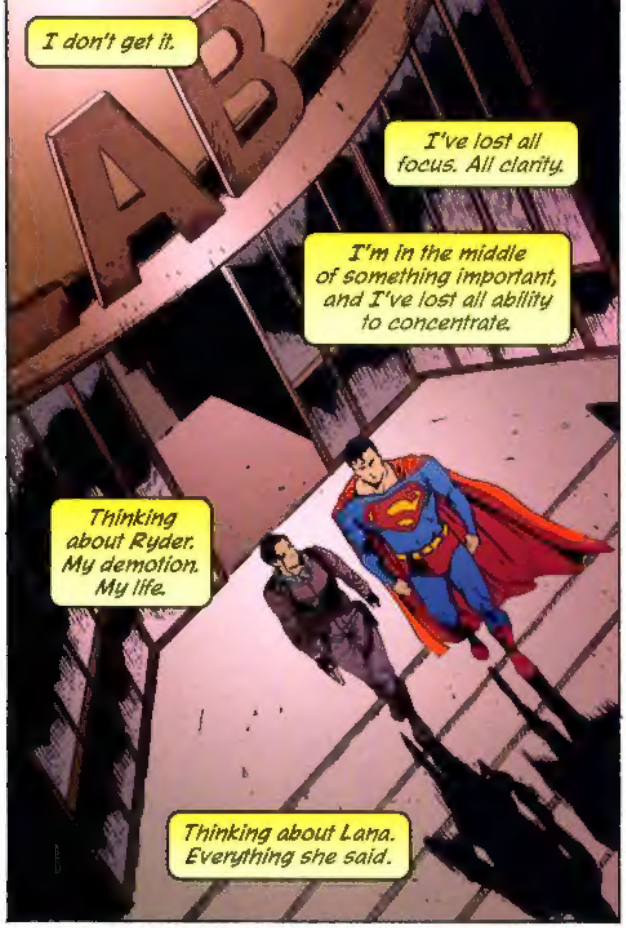
AUSTEN • ROSS • GUEDES • LAGUNA
ACTION
COMICS
No. 821
JAN 05
GODFALL:
PREUS RETURNS!
$2.50 US $3.85 CAN
Digital Comics Preservation
dccomics.com

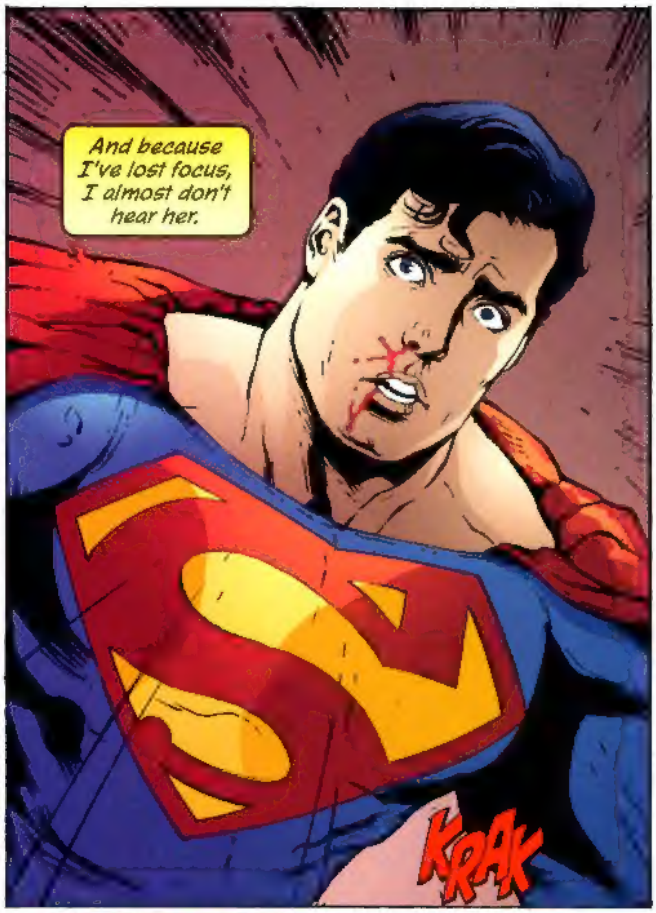

HELLO. I'M PETER DANBURY, IN FOR JACK RYDER WHO IS OFF TODAY.
AMID REPORTS THAT THE SUPERMAN-KILLING MONSTER KNOWN AS DOOMSDAY--
--WHO HAS RECENTLY KILLED AS MANY AS FOUR PEOPLE, INCLUDING ONE YOUNG BOY--
--IS RETURNING TO METROPOLIS, CITY OFFICIALS HAVE ELEVATED THE SUPERVILLAIN THREAT LEVEL TO RED.
6
MANY OF METROPOLIS'S CITIZENS HAVE TAKEN IT UPON THEMSELVES TO EVACUATE THE CITY--
--LEAVING BEHIND THEIR PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND EMPTY APARTMENTS.
6
THE ADDITIONAL STRESS TO METROPOLIS'S ALREADY OVERBURDENED COMMUTER TRANSIT SYSTEM HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY CALM--
--PROMPTING ONE EVACUEE TO COMMENT, "IT'S LIKE WE'RE ALL JUST LEAVING TOWN ON ONE BIG PICNIC."
6


God's Peake
HOW LONG THINGS WILL STAY CIVIL REMAINS TO BE SEEN, PARTICULARLY ONCE DOOMSDAY MAKES A PUBLIC, AND/OR VIOLENT APPEARANCE WITHIN CITY LIMITS.
IN THE MEANTIME, THE SUBURBS AND OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY SEEM TO BE WHERE ALL THE ACTION IS.
WHY DO YOU KEEP PUTTING ME OFF, MELINDA? EVERYONE ELSE HERE TREATS ME WITH THE RESPECT I DESERVE, BUT YOU--
TRUST ME, RALEIGH. I TREAT YOU WITH EXACTLY THE RESPECT YOU DESERVE.
NOW, SEE? THAT'S WHAT I MEAN, MELINDA.
YOU REALLY NEED TO BE NICER TO ME.

SUPERMAN VS. PREUS
WORSHIP FALSE GODS
CHUCK AUSTEN
WRITER
LUKE ROSS
RENATO GUEDES
SHANE DAVIS
CLIFF RICHARDS
PENCILLERS
FABIO LAGUNA
RENATO GUEDES
LARY STUCKER
WILL CONRAD
INKERS
GUY MAJOR
COLORIST
COMICRAFT
LETTERER
TOM PALMER JR.
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
EDDIE BERGANZA
EDITOR
SUPERMAN CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER
I AM THE BIG MAN, AROUND HERE, YOU KNOW.

HUMANS! HEAR ME!
YOUR DAY OF JUDGMENT IS AT HAND!
YOU ARE AN INFERIOR RACE!
JEEZ-LOUISE, IS THAT SUPERMAN?
THAT AIN'T SUPERMAN. SUPERMAN'S GOT DARK HAIR.
AND AS AN INFERIOR RACE YOU ARE NOW GIVEN TWO OPTIONS!
FOLLOW ME, AND SERVE MY WILL--
SOMEONE NEEDS A LITTLE BUCKSHOT UP HIS--
THIS--
--IS THE SECOND OPTION.


I don't get it.
I've lost all focus. All clarity.
I'm in the middle of something important, and I've lost all ability to concentrate.
Thinking about Ryder. My demotion. My life.
Thinking about Lana. Everything she said.


And because I've lost focus, I almost don't hear her.
KRAK

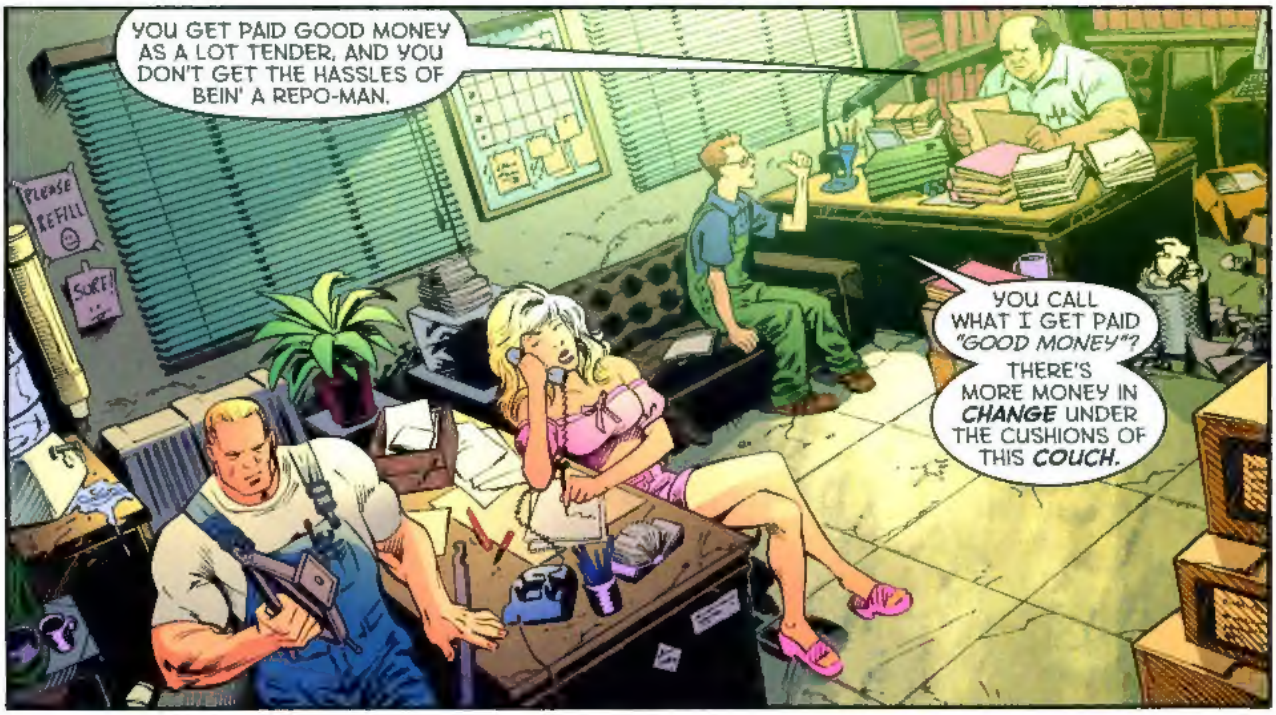
The one who means more to me than any of it.

The one who means more to me than all the men dying in this war--
--a war that stopped just by my arriving here--
--and I neither notice nor care.

IS THIS EVERYONE?
YES, PREUS.
PAY ATTENTION, PEOPLE!
YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE TALK WHILE I'M TALKING!

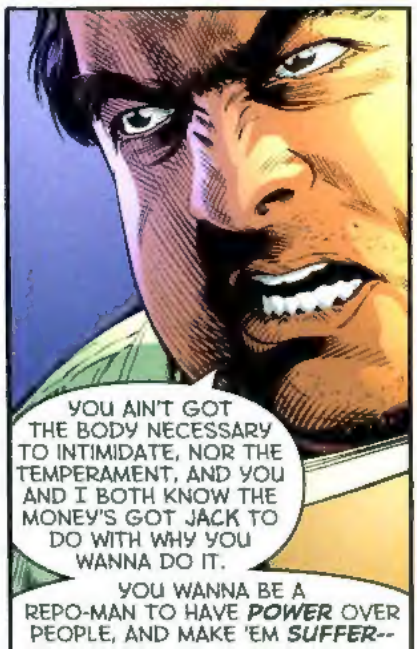
YOUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE IS NOW ENTIRELY TO SERVE ME. EVERYTHING ELSE IS SECONDARY.
AS MY PERSONAL SLAVES, WORKERS, AND MEMBERS OF MY ARMY, YOU WILL LIVE BETTER THAN YOU HAVE EVER LIVED ON YOUR OWN--
--BUT ONLY IF YOU SERVE ME, AND SERVE ME WELL.
VERY--
--VERY WELL.

YOU HAD NO RIGHT! NO RIGHT TO TAKE MY CAR!
KEEP OUT
YEAH, YEAH. TAKE IT UP WITH THE BANK.
WHY CAN'T I? I CAN DO THIS, AND YOU KNOW IT.
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO?


YOU GET PAID GOOD MONEY AS A LOT TENDER, AND YOU DON'T GET THE HASSLES OF BEIN' A REPO-MAN.
Please Refill
SURE!
YOU CALL WHAT I GET PAID "GOOD MONEY"?
THERE'S MORE MONEY IN CHANGE UNDER THE CUSHIONS OF THIS COUCH.

YOU GONNA INSULT ME, NOW?
YOU THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER AT BIG BELLY BURGER? 'CAUSE I HEAR THEY'RE HIRING.

I DON'T WANNA WORK AT BIG BELLY BURGER, VINCE. I LIKE WORKIN' HERE.
BUT BEIN' A REPO-MAN PAYS BETTER, AN'--
AND YOU AIN'T NEVER GONNA BE ONE, JESSE, SO FUGEDDABOUDIT.


YOU AIN'T GOT THE BODY NECESSARY TO INTIMIDATE, NOR THE TEMPERAMENT, AND YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THE MONEY'S GOT JACK TO DO WITH WHY YOU WANNA DO IT.
YOU WANNA BE A REPO-MAN TO HAVE POWER OVER PEOPLE, AND MAKE 'EM SUFFER--

--AND THAT KINDA GRIEF, I DON'T NEED.
IT WAS WILD, MAN, WILD. I'M TELLIN' YOU.
GUY CAME OUT SWINGIN' A FROZEN FRICKIN' TURKEY LIKE A CLUB, MAN, AND IT WAS HARD!
HIT ME SQUARE IN THE JAW.
WE TOW-U
SO WHAT DID YOU DO?
I BASTED HIM.
HA HA HA HA HA!
OOOOOH, THAT WAS BAD. SO BAD.
I SHOULDA SEEN THAT ONE COMIN'.
angel
YOU WANT TO BE GOING WITH THEM, DON'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHO ARE YOU?
DESCRIPTION

I'M YOUR FAIRY GODMOTHER
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR

YOU THINK HE'S DONE?
I DON'T HEAR NANCY *SCREAMIN'* ANY MORE, DO YOU?
I *ASSUME* THAT MEANS HE'S FINISHED
ECTO-001
YOU THINK SHE'S ALL RIGHT? NANCY, I MEAN?
HELL, *NO*, I DON'T THINK SHE'S ALL RIGHT.
NOK NOK NOK
SOUNDS COMIN' OUTTA HERE WAS LIKE A BEAR EATIN A *SALMON*, MILLER
IT ASTONISHES ME, SOMETIMES, HOW *FLIMSY* YOU PEOP..E ARE

I'M GOING TO NEED A REPLACEMENT FEMALE FOR TONIGHT
SURE. UM. WHATEVER YOU WANT, PREUS
LISTEN. WE WERE WORKING ON YOUR CABIN, THERE, AND WE WERE DISCUSSING HOW YOU DON'T LIKE ALIENS
WELL, WE DON'T LIKE ALIENS EITHER. ANYTHING INFERIOR TO THE WHITE PEOPLE, IS WHAT I MEAN
BLACKS, BROWNS, YELLOWS--
YOU COME IN DIFFERENT COLORS?
NO, WE--
SEE, THERE'S US--
--AND THEN THERE'S THE DIFFERENT COLORS
ANYWAY, WE GOT THIS PLAN FOR WIPING 'EM ALL OUT, BUT WE NEED MORE FIREPOWER THAN WHAT WE GOT, AND--
--WELL, THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN
INTERESTING.
ALL RIGHT. BRING ME ANOTHER FEMALE, AND WE'LL DISCUSS THIS PLAN OF YOURS.
AND MAKE THIS ONE A DIFFERENT COLOR

She doesn't die.
But waiting for that moment...I nearly do.
HEY
HEY
I can't think of anything except how relieved I am.
How happy I feel knowing she's still with me.
YOU LOOK SO SAD
I -- love her, and always have.
How little it matters what made her fall in love with me
Have I brought these things on her?
SSSSSHHHH
SSSSSHHHH
I've been bothered by something since the attack on me at S.T.A.R. labs.
Am I helping people? Protecting them from the evil in the world?
Are bad people the problem?
Or am I?
How much of this violence exists solely because I exist?
I used to save people from danger--
--now I put them in it, simply by being who I am.

Like the gunslinger who once helped -- then became a magnet for trouble.
A part of the problem.
And I've been so light and flip about it.
Enjoying myself. My strength.
My powers.
Am I wrong?
Am I making a mistake?
I don't know.
As I watch her sleep--
--studying her lungs as they breathe, watching her blood flow, listening to her heart pump, loud and strong--
--I hope I'm not.
Because I love who I am -- what I can do.

I love being Superman.
I love being Superman for her.
* THE SURVIVALISTS WHO LIVE THERE BEGAN LOOTING NEIGHBORING CITIES TO BUILD THIS CITY OUT OF NOWHERE IN ABOUT TWENTY FOUR HOURS TIME
"INTERESTINGLY, PEOPLE HAVE BEGUN FLOCKING TO THIS CAPTURED TOWN.
"WHETHER IT'S JUST TO OBSERVE -- OR OUT OF SOME OTHER NEED, WE DO NOT YET KNOW."
EXIT 121
God's Peake
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN. I COULD FEEL IT WHEN YOU ARRIVED.
THEY'RE COMING FROM ALL OVER.
DRAWN TO THE POWER.
BM 2370

DRAWN TO *YOUR* POWER
I CAN'T *WAIT* FOR THE *A.T.F.* TO GET HERE
I CALLED 'EM AND TOLD 'EM THEY NEEDED TO COME SEE TO THIS, SO THEY SHOULD BE HERE SOON
YOU'LL MELT 'EM LIKE BUTTER
I SHOULD GO HOME AND GET MY *VIDEO* CAMERA
THAT'S THE KIND OF THING I'M GONNA WANT TO WATCH OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN
MAN, I *WISH* I HAD POWERS LIKE YOU
I WISH I COULD GIVE THEM TO YOU
CAN YOU? IS THAT POSSIBLE?
OVERWHELMED BY THE WET, *VULGAR* SOUNDS OF YOUR OWN *BODY PARTS* SQUISHING FLUIDS AROUND, KEEPING YOU *ALIVE*--
--OF THE REVOLTING ODORS SEEPING FROM YOUR EVERY *CELL*--
--*THE BACTERIA, THE MITES, THE PARASITES THAT INFEST EVERY RECESS OF YOUR FILTHY CARCASSES*--

-ALL MAGNIFIED MILLIONS OF TIMES WITH THESE POWERS!
COOL
NO. NOT COOL
HOW DOES KAL-EL STAND IT? BEING AROUND YOU PLEBES YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT OF HIS MISERABLE, ENDLESS LIFE?
I'VE BEEN CROWDED BY YOU DISGUSTING CREATURES FOR ONLY A MATTER OF DAYS--
--AND I'VE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH--
HOW ABOUT ANOTHER WOMAN!
WE GOT PLENTY.

IN FACT, THIS WAS ONE OF *MY* FAVORITES, UP UNTIL RECENTLY
BUT YOU CAN HAVE HER
MY GIFT TO YOU
PREUS!
YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO CEASE AND DESIST AND COME WITH ME

DO NOT ORDER ME, ALIEN PARASITE!

SUPERMAN WARNED ME YOU WERE A RACIST.

BUT I SEE IN THE MINDS OF THESE OTHERS THAT YOU'RE NOW A MURDERER, AS WELL.

I WAS A PEACE OFFICER ON KANDOR. AND I NOW HAVE THE POWER OF KAL-EL, BUT NONE OF HIS WEAKNESS.
I KNOW WHAT MURDER IS, AND IT IS NOT KILLING LESSER BEINGS. MURDER IS IGNORING THE LIVES OF MY PEOPLE--

--WHILE COHABITATING WITH ANIMALS LIKE THESE REPU_SIVE HUMANS--
-AND YOU

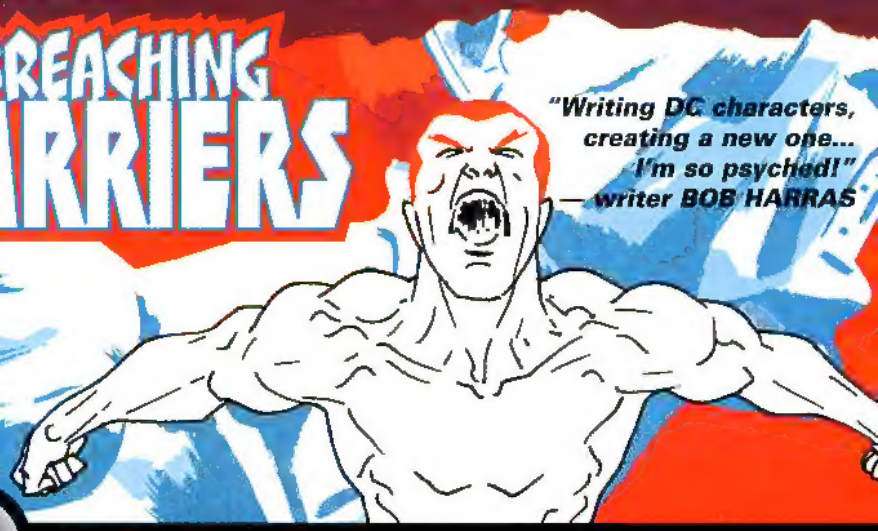
SURRENDER PEACEFULLY, OR I WILL RESORT TO VIOLENCE IN ORDER TO STOP YOU.

OH. MY

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN--
--INTANGIBLE
NOT INTANGIBLE ENOUGH
YOU CAN GO IF YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF ANYTHING
DON'T FEEL YOU NEED TO STAY AND WATCH OVER ME.

I DON'T FEEL I NEED TO.
I WANT TO.
THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT TO ME, RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT.
YOU'RE SO SWEET.
"AND IF ANYTHING MAJOR HAPPENS, SOMEONE ELSE CAN HANDLE IT.
"THERE ARE A HUNDRED OTHER HEROES IN THE JLA. MARTIAN MANHUNTER COULD PROBABLY HANDLE MOST THINGS ALL BY HIMSELF.
"HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN ALL OF US COMBINED. IF HE CAN'T DEAL WITH IT, WHATEVER IT IS--
"--WE'RE ALL IN REAL TROUBLE."
To Be Continued

BREACHING BARRIERS



11.04

IN DEMAND

dccomics.com
keyword: DC COMICS on AOL

This Month's Cover by...
ARTHUR ADAMS
COLOR BY GUY MAJOR

BREACH #1 (January, 2005):

Don't expect a typical origin story for the title character of this new ongoing series – with legendary runs editing *X-Men* and writing *Avengers* to his credit, writer **Bob Harras** knows how to break through all storytelling barriers! Joined by BATGIRL: YEAR ONE artist **Marcos Martin**, Bob introduces readers to Major Tim Porter, a man who may be the world's only hope…or the herald of its destruction! The 30-page first issue also offers a sneak peek at what will unfold throughout a year that involves Kobra, the League of Assassins and the JLA, and culminates with – uh-uh, sorry. We'll contain ourselves regarding issue #12's major surprise for now!

Next Month in...

Action Comics #822

Clark and Lois go back to Smallville for the holidays... Surprise, surprise! Lana Lang is in town, too. What starts out as an ordinary dispute turns into something more sinister. Guest-starring Superboy! By Austen, Reis and Campos.

The Hot List THIS WEEK

FIRESTORM #7

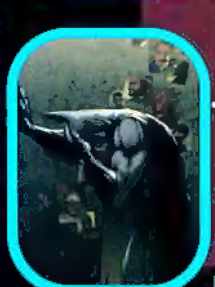
The Nuclear Man meets DC's most brutal hero in a crossover that starts here and concludes in this week's BLOODHOUND #5! When a villain takes Firestorm's incredible power and turns it against Bloodhound, what happens next won't be pretty.

GOTHAM CENTRAL #25

Fresh off the events of "War Games," Batman has much to answer for as far as the GCPD is concerned! Akins is furious with the masked vigilante, and he's drawing a line that will change the relationship between Batman and the police!

IDENTITY CRISIS #6 (of 7)

The thrill-packed miniseries by Brad Meltzer, Rags Morales and Michael Bair nears its unbelievable finale! From the very start, he's been on the case and sifting through clues. He's the World's Greatest Detective. Now it's time for Batman to prove it.



BOUND BY BLOOD

We've always believed Jason Blood was a man possessed by Etrigan the Demon, but **John Byrne** (DOOM PATROL) and **Will Pfeifer** (AQUAMAN) are collaborating on a new monthly series that reveals a whole lot more about this "blood bond" than any of us ever realized. John plots and pencils, while Will scripts BLOOD OF THE DEMON, and we think it's bound to conjure up a huge reaction when it spills out into comics shops everywhere next March!

RELIVING THE (DARK) KNIGHTLIFE

It's been far too long since **Andy Helfer** put THE SHADOW in the limelight and breathed life into DEADMAN years ago, so we're thrilled that he's returning to monthly comics writing with a new Batman maxiseries this spring. Andy is collaborating with one of his many editorial discoveries, Eisner Award-winning artist **Tan Eng Huat** (DOOM PATROL), and focusing on Batman in his most formative stages. We also hear the 12-issue series is so packed with incident and treachery, there will be little doubt that Bruce Wayne could have become anything but the World's Greatest Detective, and the Dark Knight of the DC Universe! Watch for it in April!

DISPENSING JUSTICE

JUSTICE is served…or will be in 2005, but let's hope it won't be *too* swift. Especially since this 12-issue bimonthly maxiseries – which features the classic Justice League in mortal combat with Lex Luthor, Brainiac, and the most powerful array of super-criminals ever assembled – is masterminded by fan favorite **Alex Ross**! And with Alex writing the series with *Universe X* co-scribe **Jim Krueger**, plus providing fully painted artwork over the pencils of **Dougie Braithwaite**…well, let's just say we can't wait to *mete* it!

GREEN-LIGHTING THE NEW GREEN LANTERN

With Hal Jordan reclaiming his emerald power ring in REBIRTH, writer **Geoff Johns** and artist **Carlos Pacheco** (SUPERMAN/BATMAN) take the next step this May – in an all-new GREEN LANTERN monthly! While establishing Hal as a beacon of light and hope in the DCU, Geoff and Carlos will introduce a new supporting core (or Corps?) of characters, and reacquaint our hero with several very familiar archenemies. We're confident this GREEN LANTERN will be in the greatest hands possible – yours!

– your MOE in 1700

DC COMICS DAN DIDIO VP-Editorial PAUL LEVITZ President & Publisher GEORG BREWER VP-Design & Retail Product Development RICHARD BRUNING Senior VP-Creative Director PATRICK CALDON Senior VP-Finance & Operations CHRIS CARAMALIS VP-Finance TERRI CUNNINGHAM VP-Managing Editor ALISON GILL VP-Manufacturing RICH JOHNSON VP-Book Trade Sales HANK KANALZ VP-General Manager, WildStorm LILLIAN LASERSON Senior VP & General Counsel JIM LEE Editorial Director-WildStorm DAVID McKILLIPS VP-Advertising & Custom Publishing JOHN NEE VP-Business Development GREGORY NOVECK Senior VP-Creative Affairs CHERYL RUBIN Senior VP-Brand Management BOB WAYNE VP-Sales & Marketing

ACTION COMICS #21. January, 2005. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) $27.00. Canadian subscribers must add $12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2005 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed on recyclable paper. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork.
Printed in Canada.
DC Comics, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company

We need two monthly Green Lantern titles! GL with Hal Jordan and GL Corps with Kyle Rayner, Kilowog, and all.

In Memory of Christopher Reeve

September 25, 1952 to October 10, 2004

DCP Salutes the one who made us believe a man could fly.

WITH TEAMWORK
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE....

TEAM DCP

Digitally Preserving That Which Needs To Be Preserved

Scan courtesy of: robbdaman and jxsi

Help support the comics industry that we love so much, if you enjoyed this book please consider buying it in the future.